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HONOLULU, HAWAII

June 5, 2013

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin  
Chair, Honolulu City Council  
Honolulu Hale  
530 S. King Street, Room 302  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: Operating Budget as Bill 11 (2013), CD2  
Relating to the City and County Budget  
The Wahiawa Center for Community Health - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Martin and members of the Honolulu City Council:

In September, 2011, the Health Resources & Services Administration (HRSA) awarded a one year planning grant to the Wahiawa area. The planning grant was to determine if there was a need for a Community Health Center in Wahiawa. The results were staggering and worrisome given the unique population demographics found within Wahiawa. The most recent US Census shows the greater Wahiawa area comprises of 36,877 people. Of those, a large number of residents are either in the early or late years of life. 24.1% of residents are under the age of 18, nearly 7% under the age of 5 alone. Individuals older than age 65 comprise 17.1% of the population. Taken together, this classifies over 41% of the population as either a child or elderly individual. Children have limited access to care due to limited finances within their households. This can be inferred as all six elementary schools in Wahiawa are Title 1 schools and thus qualify for free or reduced lunches.

Cause for further concern can be found when examining the other defining characteristics of the Wahiawa population. 33.5% live below 200% of the federal poverty line. 14.1% are uninsured. Unemployment is at 5.3%. Only 19.2% of residents have completed an undergraduate education. All of these percentages are significantly lower than in the rest of the state. A direct result of these figures is the impact it has on community earning capacity. Per capita income level is currently at \$24,118, 17.4% lower than the rest of the state.

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*It is this lack of income that has identified Wahiawa as an area eligible for revitalization under the Neighborhood Revitalization Strategy Area (NRSA) initiative.* The NRSA initiative was first implemented by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. It is an effort to recognize areas with a commitment by community stakeholders to revitalize neighborhoods by investing in infrastructure.

Your support through the Operational Budget of the City of Honolulu will assist this brand new community-owned and locally managed not-for-profit health center with a mission to promote and provide accessible comprehensive individual and Community health care to the people of Wahiawa, Central Oahu and the North Shore

*Mary C. Talon*

Mary Talon  
President  
The Wahiawa Center for Community Health